

BEFORE THE AIR FORCE SHATTERED THE SOUND BARRIER, THESE AIRMEN SHATTERED THE RACE BARRIER.



Tuskegee Airmen of the first all-black fighter squadron.



Lieutenant Charles B. Hall
99th Fighter Squadron

Chances are, you know about the people who broke the sound barrier, but how much do you know about Charles Hall?

In 1943, while flying over the coast of Sicily in his P-40 Warhawk, he

downed a German Focke-Wulf 190 fighter and, with it, all the misconceptions of what a black pilot was capable of.

Charles Hall was part of a group of pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen, black combat pilots who didn't settle for being as good as other pilots; they were determined to be even better.

They flew more than 15,000 sorties. They destroyed hundreds of German aircraft.



The Tuskegee Airmen were awarded hundreds of medals, including 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

And they took home 150 Distinguished Flying Cross medals.

In fact, the Tuskegee Airmen had an unsurpassed combat claim: In World War II they never lost an escorted bomber to enemy fighters.

Thanks in part to the Tuskegee Airmen, when you Cross Into The Blue in the United States Air Force, the world of opportunity and honor is available to everyone. They made the most of their opportunity. What will you do with yours?



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